

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

11150 EAST BOULEVARD AT UNIVERSITY CIRCLE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106 CABLE ADDRESS: MUSART CLEVELAND
SHERMAN E. LEE, DIRECTOR TELEPHONE: 421-7340

September 1, 1978

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American Folk Art from the Traditional to the Naive, an exhibition on view at The Cleveland Museum of Art from October 4 through December 24, examines the origins and diversity of American folk art, while attempting to answer questions regarding its relationship to the fine arts, its current popularity and growing commercialization. The seventy-one objects in the show, drawn primarily from The Cleveland Museum of Art and regional collections, range from the 17th century to the present day.

Some works demonstrate the folk artist's skill at beautifying utilitarian objects: furniture and household utensils, pottery, decoys, and birth and baptismal certificates. Others express spiritual beliefs and patriotic sentiments: Santos (Southwestern religious images), Shaker inspirational drawings, and depictions of national heroes. A third category of folk art--portraits, paintings, and sculpture by untutored artists--can be classified as "naive representations of reality."

The exhibition, organized by Lynette Rhodes of the Cleveland Museum's Department of Art History and Education, is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and will travel to other institutions in Ohio. A fully illustrated 140-page catalogue prepared by Miss Rhodes for the exhibition will be available from the Museum's sales desk.

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For more information, contact Ann Edwards, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 216/421-7340.